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OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,  
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201. SENATE DRAFT 1**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the House Committee Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor supports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 201. S.D.1, requesting the Governor to approve the establishment of a sister state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan. By invitation of the Hokkaido government, in January 2014, the Lieutenant Governor traveled with Hawaii Tourism Authority representatives to Hokkaido, Japan to execute a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between Hawaii and Hokkaido. The MOC reflected both sides' interest and willingness to further explore the establishment of a sister-state relationship due to shared interests, industries, and other commonalities. While the MOC did not establish any legal obligation on the part of either party, the groundwork was laid for future discussions.

Furthermore, the direct flight access on Hawaiian Airlines and increased activity with HTA-Japan make this relationship valuable to continue to pursue and explore. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor supports SCR201, SD1 and urges the passage of this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS,  
MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015  
10:15 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of

**SCR 201, SD1**  
**REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN,  
AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 2293, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the House Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SCR 201, SD1 which requests the Hawaii Sister-State Committee to evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan, and forward its recommendation to the Legislature pursuant to Section 2293, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for further action.

The Hawaii Sister State Committee consists of a board of volunteers. The Committee has developed written guidelines to apply for and procedures to evaluate possible sister-state relationships. Based upon this application, the Committee will make recommendations to the Legislature on the merits of such a relationship. The Committee, however, lacks the necessary resources to conduct research on potential relationships. The Committee's policy is for thorough research be conducted by the community or parties seeking to establish such a relationship. By having the initiating parties do this research, and formally apply for such a relationship, it demonstrates that there will be continued support from the community and that the sister relationship will be one that is lasting.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.